

GOOD TASTE

The Newsletter of the Thunder Bay Atari ST Enthusiasts - May 1991

C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

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CLUB NEWS

In spite of the short notice regarding the postponement of last month's meeting by a week, the turnout was not too bad. The focus was on word processors, and 4 members responded to the invite extended in last month's newsletter to demonstrate their favourite program.

Ed Giertuga brought along the latest version of Wordflair - Wordflair II; George Zurawski showed us the strong points of Word Writer2; Ken Owen emphasised the potential of a versatile accessory-type word processor called Word 400. I gave my favourite word processor - Regent Word 2 - a whirl.

Wordflair II is called a document processor and can import graphics. Apart from this, Ed mentioned that it can also work as a database and certain calculations can be done with it. The program can also import graphics. Word Writer 2 has a lot of potential, as George pointed out, and he is quickly learning to master it more fully. The advantage of having a mini word processor running as an accessory was very evident when doing programming, stated Ken.

You can make quick changes, and test the program you are writing without having to leave the interpreter or the compiler. Regent Word is a small program with regard to it's length in bytes, but quite large in the number of features it possesses.

Ken brought along more than half a dozen games. all of which were demoed. The quality was excellent, and the games are available at Mikadon's Thunder Bay Mall outlet (and possibly the other branches too). Ed Giertuga and Jason Riddell showed us why the Lynx is so popular. Not to be outdone, Doug Orlowski brought along his Nintendo game set and demonstrated some of it's capabilities.

In this regard, I would like to ask the membership's opinion as to what can be demoed at our meetings, and what should be considered as extraneous to the spirit of an ATARI USER GROUP meeting. Let's talk about this at this month's meeting, if you wish.

Club Librarian Jim Dick had printed copies of the current disk library catalogue available (free to members). He also described the disk of the month, and ran several programs, resulting in the sale of 2 disks. At \$5 a disk, you get excellent value for the money.

Roy Stokes was unable to make it because of a previous engagement. Fred Briden was busy completing his Chemistry program, so took the minutes of the meeting. Thanks for the trouble, Charlie.

THE MAY MEETING

Theme of the month: **DATABASES**

There are several database programs available for the ST, and some of them have been demonstrated at previous meetings by Neville Riddell - LDW power for example. Here we are talking about a powerful relational type of database. A relational database can be defined as one which can generate several different sub-databases, and be transportable to other data base programs.

'Datamanager' is one of the more popular non-relational databases available for the ST and is published by

Timeworks. As you probably know, Timeworks has discontinued it's ST support for Datamanager (as also for the companion programs Wordwriter 2, and Swiftcalc 2. The choices presently available are Superbase Personal, Superbase Professional, LDW power, and a promising database called Informer II. Ed Giertuga has recently bought this program and finds it much more useful than Datamanager and some other databases.

If you have a favourite database that you wish to demonstrate at the meeting, we will be only too glad to accomodate you. I will give you a rundown on Datamanager, since I have used it all along for our Club's records, and printing mailing labels. I have also used it for helping me to buy a car last summer; right now I have a database of houses for sale because I am house-hunting at the present time.

Databases can be, and have been put to a lot of practical uses. You can organise coin and stamp collections, make up mailing lists etc. The business applications are soewhat obvious. I remember reading about several scientific applications using databases that originated in Europe and the UK.

Two of the most popular PD databases are OPUS and SHEET. These will be demonstrated, if needed, at this month's meeting.

The evening will be rounded off with several games

*THE MAY MEETING
WEDNESDAY
MAY 29TH
7.00 PM

Confederation College
Aircraft Maintenance Hangar
Thunder Bay Airport
DATABASES
GAMES*

being shown. Do not forget to bring along your favourite program; it need not necessarily be a database or a game.

Election of Officers.

The 2-year term of office for all club officers expires in June this year. As such I will be stepping down as President (plus newsletter editor/publisher) together with Roy Stokes (Vice-president and Treasurer), Ed Giertuga (Communications Officer), Fred Briden (Secretary), and Jim Dick (Disk Librarian).

I am hoping that some of you will come forward to take these vacant positions. Let us discuss this at this month's meeting, and elect our new slate of officers at the June meeting. As you know, we do not meet in July nad August, although a combined newsletter will be published for these two months.

AIM Magazine

I have phoned Unicorn Publications 4 times and have been told that the newsletter and the disk of the month have been delayed. I would not worry too much about the DOM because Jim has more than enough current material to get a DOM ready each month until December and later.

In the meantime, the Atari User's Association has restructured itself and offers a disk 6 times a year and other goodies besides. Also, another free publication called Atari User is now being published. Ed and I are looking into this at the present time, and we will have more for you at the meeting.

Please refer to the appendices attached for more information on the AUA and Atari User.

About our Members

..... Ed Giertuga has recently bought a HP Laser IIP printer from a local supplier, Microage. The price that he paid (\$1300) was quite competitive. He has also added 2 megs of memory, and will be getting an Epson emulator shortly. He is in the process of upgrading the many programs that he has like Neodesk, DC Utilities, Pagestream, and so on.

..... I would like to get a multisynch monitor if I can sell my mono unit (an SM 125). If you want a monochrome unit, give me a call at 344-0174. My colour monitor has already been sold.

..... Jim is busy adding the new disks to our library. He is trying to get an ASC file listing made up. When this is done, it can be processed using Pagestream, and an index will also be made available.

..... Fred Briden left for Vancouver on Sunday the 11th of May to take part in a Canada-wide competition. Here's wishing him every success in Vancouver..

..... Neville Riddell has offered the use of his photocopying machine to print our newsletter. Thanks very much for the offer, Neville. We shall be making use of your machine shortly.

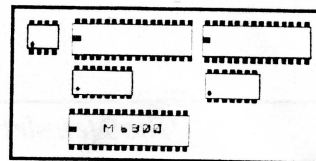
..... Ken Owen has placed some more ST titles on the shelves of Mikadon's Thunder Bay Mall outlet. Do visit him and see what he has for the ST and for us.

See you all at this month's meeting (Wednesday, May the 29th)

Neville

TOS Revisions

Written by
John Townsend,
Atari Corporation
(Downloaded from Genie by
Ed Giertuga)



This is a small document that explains in very terse terms the differences between the TOS revisions available for ST/MEGA/STE/Mega STE/TT machines, what patches are needed for what revisions, the formats they are available in, and any notes I can think of.

I hope this will clear up some of the confusion with the different TOS versions. If you have any questions on this document, please let me know here on GENIE. My GENIE Address is: TOWNS.

Special thanks to Leonard Tramiel, Allan Pratt, and Doug Wheeler for their involvement with this little Document. Thanks again! Comments are welcome..
-- John Townsend, Atari Corp.

ROM TOS (TOS 1.0)

The original ROM TOS, this version shipped in 520ST and 1040ST machines. It is no longer shipping in any machines.

Formats: 2 chip ROMs, 6 chip ROMs

Machines: 520ST, 1040ST

Utilities: FOLDRXXX.PRG FOLDRXXX.PRG will add more entries into your OS Pool.

In TOS 1.0 and TOS 1.02, the limit for the number of directories that you can enter is around 40. With this program you can extend that limit much higher. If you are using a hard drive, this program is recommended highly. It will work with all TOS versions and will improve the performance of your system.

Notes: GET TOS 1.04 TODAY! TOS 1.04 is the latest version of TOS for 520/1040/MEGA owners. It is MUCH faster, has faster, better disk I/O, many other improvements.

MEGA TOS (TOS 1.02)

This is commonly referred to as MEGA TOS. This version of TOS fixes some minor problems in TOS 1.0 and has support for the BLITTER chip and Real-Time Clock chip.

Formats: 2 chip ROMs, 6 chip ROMs

Machines: 520ST, 1040ST, Mega 2, Mega 4

Utilities: FOLDRXXX.PRG FOLDRXXX.PRG is explained above.

Notes: See notes for TOS 1.0.. GET TOS 1.04 TODAY!

RAINBOW TOS (TOS 1.04)

TOS 1.04 or Rainbow TOS, as it is commonly known is the latest version of TOS available for 520/1040/MEGA owners. It has been available as a dealer upgrade for awhile now. It has much more robust Disk I/O, Autorunning of GEM programs at boot up, a fix for the 40 folder limit, and much more. Most of all is it much faster than previous versions of the Operating System.

Formats: 2 chip ROMs, 6 chip ROMs (available as Upgrade!)

Machines: Stacy

Utilities: TOS14FIX.PRG, POOLFIX3.PRG, CACHEXXX.PRG, FOLDRXXX.PRG TOS14FIX.PRG solves some small problems in the AES (for additional

information, please see the documentation that accompanies the TOS14FIX.PRG program).

POOLFIX3.PRG fixes a bug in GEMDOS. Documentation that accompanies the POOLFIX3.PRG program explains (in detail) the problem that it fixes.

CACHEXXX.PRG is a new program that adds GEMDOS buffers to your system. The caching of data and disk directories by GEMDOS (when this program is used) will result in your system running much faster! This program is highly recommended and requires TOS 1.04 or higher for full benefits!

FOLDRXXX.PRG is explained above.

Notes: Please use the utilities available and if you haven't upgraded to this version of TOS yet.. please consider doing so. It's a very worthwhile upgrade.

There are some disk-based versions of _early_ developer only releases of TOS 1.04 floating around on BBS systems here in the United States and abroad. Please don't use them! They are bad news! They have some very nasty bugs and have been known to corrupt data!

STE IOS, Rev 1 (TOS 1.06)

TOS 1.06 is the TOS version that is shipped with the 1040STE and 520STE machines. It is essentially TOS 1.04 with support for the new hardware that the STE has.

Formats: 2 chip ROMs

Machines: 520STE, 1040STE

Utilities: STE_FIX.PRG, POOLFIX3.PRG, CACHEXXX.PRG, FOLDRXXX.PRG STE_FIX fixes the infamous Desktop Medium/Low resolution bug.

The problem is that there is a bug in the desktop code in this version of TOS that prevents the user from booting into Medium Resolution. The patch program STE_FIX will solve the problem. Once it is executed in the AUTO folder, the problem no longer exists.

FOLDRXXX.PRG, CACHEXXX.PRG, and POOLFIX3.PRG are explained above.

Notes: This version is only available in 1040STE and 520STE machines. It isn't available for upgrading. It won't work in older machines.

STE IOS, Rev 2 (TOS 1.62)

This is a slightly revised revision of TOS 1.6. It fixes the POOLFIX problem in GEMDOS and the problem in the Desktop that was present in TOS 1.06.

Formats: 2 chip ROMs

Machines: 520STE, 1040STE

Utilities: CACHEXXX.PRG, FOLDRXXX.PRG CACHEXXX.PRG and FOLDRXXX.PRG are explained above.

Notes: This version is only available in 1040ST and 520STE machines. It isn't available for upgrading.

Mega STE IOS (TOS 2.05)

TOS 2.05 is the version of TOS currently shipping in the Mega STE.

Formats: 2 chip ROMs

Machines: Mega STE

Utilities: CACHEXXX.PRG, FOLDRXXX.PRG CACHEXXX.PRG and FOLDRXXX.PRG are explained above.

Notes: This version is only available in the Mega STE. It isn't available for upgrading.

II IOS (TOS 3.01)

TOS 3.01 is the version of TOS that originally shipped in the TT030.

Formats: 4 chip ROMs

Machines: TT030

Utilities: CACHEXXX.PRG, FOLDRXXX.PRG CACHEXXX.PRG and FOLDRXXX.PRG are explained above.

Notes: This version is only available in the TT030. It isn't available for upgrading.

II IOS (TOS 3.05)

TOS 3.05 is the latest version of TOS currently shipping in the TT030.

Formats: 4 chip ROMs

Machines: TT030

Utilities: CACHEXXX.PRG, FOLDRXXX.PRG, SERPTCH1.PRG CACHEXXX.PRG and FOLDRXXX.PRG are explained above.

Notes: This version is only available in the TT030. It isn't available for upgrading.

POTPOURRI

by N.Denetto

EXTRACTS FROM ST REPORTS and ZNET reports for May 1991. These reports were downloaded by Ed Giertuga.

COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE

From Missionware Software ...'lottODDS' and is a lottery number generation program..... Printer Initializer gives you quick, total, and *easy* control over your printer's control functions. Just send us a blank, formatted disk with a self-addressed stamped return mailer and we'll get the demos out to you ASAP.

Missionware Software,
354 N. Winston Drive,
Palatine, IL 60067-4132

CardFile 3 - The Personal Information Manager(\$39.95, Gribnif) A complete Rolodex style address book and phone list manager. Each card holds up to 14 different fields of information.

To order, either call us at (413) 584-7887

STREE (from the UK) is an amazing new desktop accessory which lets you quickly search for files on your hard disk.

GFA is treating GFA-BASIC for MS-DOS as an upgrade to all Atari GFA customers. The regular list price for the 8086/88/286 version is \$249; \$295 for the 386 version. For a limited time, GFA will allow ST users to upgrade to the IBM version for a 50% Discount from these prices!... This special offer is only available directly by phone or Fax. For more information contact:

GFA Software Technologies Inc.,
27 Congress Street,
Salem, MA 01970
Tel: 508-744-0201
Fax: 508-744-8041
VISA/MasterCard accepted

GOLDLEAF PUBLISHING on-line conference

<JEFF.W> Our guest tonight is **Lauren Flanagan-Sellers**, president of Goldleaf Publishing. Most of you are familiar with Goldleaf as the publisher of Wordflair and Wordflair II.

.... <[Lauren/John] WORDFLAIR> Hi, this is John Fox. We think Wordflair II compares very favorably to word processors such as MacWrite, MS Word, etc. In addition to giving you multiple font and point sizes, we have a built in database, pastable calculation cells, page layout tools, and elegant graphics handling... To do what Wordflair II does as a single program you would have to use several programs in a "multitasking" environment...

... <J.DOSSEY> How does WordFlair II compare to Pagestream? Thanks.

<[Lauren/John] WORDFLAIR> Wordflair II is a document processor that has many of the page layout features of a Page layout program such as the excellent PageStream. Wordflair II is great for quick compound documents, intelligent forms and invoices, proposals and the like. PageStream is much more full featured and the two products are not intended to compete. They meet different needs. Our goal in designing WF II is that it will comfortable co-exist with most programs on the market as its blend of features is unique.

... <[Lauren/John] WORDFLAIR> Harlekin is a compendium of useful desk accessories such as a: flexible scrap book, mini word processor, diary, calendar, RAMdisk, printer spooler, terminal program and more.

CONFIRMED Atari is in fact purchasing the source code and rights to **WORDUP!**, a graphics and word processing system that pioneered the document processing field in the Atari market.

Word Perfect intends to abandon support efforts for the Atari platform for their high-end word processing system...a 10,000 unit order from Atari Germany was cancelled

DD/SHAREWARE

DC Shower will view 17 different picture types, text files, hex mode, extracts ARC, LZH, ZIP and ZOO files faster than anything else on the market (except for DCopy).

WF_ICONS.LZH will please WordFlair owners... Within the file are custom made ICONS..

RICK KEENE COMIC BOOKS has been posted this past week.

BRNDTNGO.ARC a Calamus font, is available

AMRCNHSD.LZH is the Dictionary Fix for PageStream 1.82 and above.

DC_BOOTIT.ARC V.1.0 lets you run boot disks from the desktop. Choose drive A or B, 50 or 60 Hertz, and resolution.

FUNKALRT.ARC (shareware \$10) a program that lets you use the function keys F1, F2, and F3 to select the buttons in any GEM alert box!

2BSFKEYS.ARC V. 0.92 allows you to assign text macros to function keys (20 total). It can be run as a program from the desktop as well.

ARC SHELL V 2.5 from Charles F. Johnson is available

FMDOIT.ARC - FormDoIt! 1.2 - Alert & dialog box enhancements

DCBSET.ARC, sets the ARCHIVE bit on files --

both new and modified. Now you can fully utilize all those great backup programs that rely on the ARCHIVE bit being set.

MAGAZINES

GETTING ATARIUSER We distribute bundles of ATARIUSER to dealers and user groups upon request in increments of 50. Registered Atari User Groups get ATARIUSER completely free, all others pay only shipping costs. Individual introductory copies are \$1.00 by first class mail. Preferential home delivery is available for a limited time price of \$15 per year.

Contact ATARIUSER for details... 800-333-3567,
113 West College Street,
Covina,
California, 91723.
FAX 818-332-2869.

HARDWARE

TURBO20 is the successor to the most popular Atari ST accelerator ever.. operates at 20 mHz, costs \$329

FAST TECHNOLOGY

P.O. Box 578
Andover Ma. 01810
(508)-475-3810

BBS INFO

... congratulations are in order! Yes folks step right up and for the donation of one thin ten dollar bill you too can enjoy a year of **CodeHead Quarters BBS**, with 1200 plus files! More information about the party is available on the board.
213 461-2095

The extracts that I have provided is a small fraction of the actual content of the downloads given to me by Ed. There were tutorials on Calamus, reviews of games, comparisons of various types of hardware, detailed descriptions of the Turbo20 acclerator board, etc etc. Why not join a BBS like Genie, and explore the vast electronic world that is a phone call away.

See you all on the 29th.

Neville Denetto

This newsletter has been put together using Pagestream v 1.82, an SM124 monochrome monitor, and a HP Deskjet 500 printer

A word of appreciation to Ed Giertuga for supplying the Genie downloads that made this newsletter possible.

N.Denetto
Editor/Publisher

14 May 1991

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